

Remarks/Arguments:

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-25 and 29-33 are pending. Claims 13 and 29 have been amended to more clearly and particularly point out the invention.

Claims 1 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Poole (U.S. Patent No. 6,535,671). Claims 2-5, 8-11, 13-16, 18-20, 23 and 30 as being anticipated by Underwood et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,464) ("Underwood") in view of Poole.

Claim 29 has been objected to by the Examiner. Applicants have amended the claim in accordance with the Examiner's instructions.

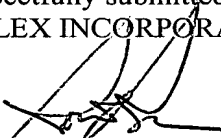
It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are not taught, suggested or implied by Poole. In particular, the Examiner asserts that Poole discloses a detachable optical module. However, the Examiner has provided no numeric or text reference from the Poole patent to indicate that Poole indeed teaches a detachable optical module. In fact, Applicants respectfully submit that Poole actually teaches away from a detachable module.

For example, referring to col. 4, lines 13-30, Poole teaches use of fused components and epoxy, which "secures the input and output ends of the fiber 102 to encapsulating tube 110." Other similar statements are found throughout the detailed description of the Poole specification. As such, Applicants fail to understand in what way Poole teaches a detachable module.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objections have been obviated. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
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